

1/15/17 - Cable Community Church

Order of Service

- ◊ PRELUDE
- ◊ WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ◊ SCRIPTURE READING -- # 491 - Perfect Peace
- ◊ PRAYER
- ◊ GREETING TIME -- # 282 - The Family of God
- ◊ PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS
- ◊ CHILDREN'S SERMON
- ◊ OFFERING
- ◊ HYMN -- # 275 - How Firm a Foundation
- ◊ SERMON
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- ◊ BENEDICTION
- ◊ BENEDICTION RESPONSE -- # 625 - Doxology

PRAYER REQUESTS

No Fear

Isaiah 43:1-3a

Carmelo and Teresa Sarabia were watching television on a rainy Monday night several years ago in their Laguna Canyon, California apartment. Their nine-month old baby, Tiffany, was asleep in her crib in the next room. Teresa's first clue that something was wrong was when the television screen flickered, then, went black. The power was out.

"I heard an explosion like the mountain was moving," she later told the Los Angeles Times, "and I took the baby from the crib." Holding her husband's hand, Teresa clutched the baby close to her body, bracing herself. Within seconds, a river of mud smashed through the apartment wall.

Teresa tried to shield her baby, positioning herself so the mud and debris would hit her instead of the child. Carmelo, in turn, tried to shield his wife and child. Strong as he was, determined as Teresa was, they were swept down the hill by the force of the current. Tiffany was torn from her mother's arms.

"My mouth was full of mud, and I was cleaning it out so I could yell for help for my baby," Teresa said. "But I couldn't scream." When they finally came to rest, she and Carmelo lay a few feet from one another, unable to move. Teresa could hear Tiffany crying in the distance, but she couldn't see her. She began to call for help. Moments later, the baby's cries were replaced by something far more terrifying. Silence.

What's the worst that can happen? Everyone will have a different answer to that question. And your answer will largely depend on what you are most afraid of. Dallas Willard says, "Fear is the anticipation of harm." The death of a loved one. Your own. The loss of a child. Never having one. Being alone. Losing your job. Terrorism. War. Crime. Everyone has a worst case scenario for their lives. Today I want you take yours out and look at it.

Take out your Bible, too. I want you to look at Isaiah 43:1 - 3. In chapter 42, Isaiah describes the worst of all worst case scenarios. God has poured out his wrath on Israel. Answer the question any way you want, the worst thing in all eternity is to face the wrath of God. So says Isaiah 42. Chapter 43 tells us how we can survive even that. What use is faith when the worst happens? Near the end of Isaiah 42 there is a question; "Which of you will listen to this or pay close attention in time to come?" Perhaps the most important thing faith can do for us in the middle of a crisis is to teach us to listen and to pay attention to fundamental truths. Today's verses tell us what to pay attention to. The truth is that — in every situation...

We Have A Basis For Security

Though Troubles May Come

Our Foundation Is Secure

I. Body

A. We Have A Basis For Security

a) **That basis is founded in God**

1. God, our Creator

a) Wesley said, "God not only created you out of nothing, but formed you into His peculiar people."

b) Psalms 100:3 -- "Know that the LORD, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."

-We must remember that God created us and knows what is best for us.

--He created us for his Pleasure

--He created us for his purpose

--He created us for his praise

2. God, our Redeemer

a) Redemption means that God has paid something for us.

1 Corinthians 6:19 - 20 -- Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

b) Titus 2:14 -- who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

-He paid for us with the blood of His Son.

Hebrews 9:12 -- Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

-When Jesus died on the cross he paid the price for your sin, thus redeeming you.

-Since He paid for you...He has a claim, an interest in your life. But more than that... He is...

3. God, our Father

a) He knows you by name.

-He knows all about you.

Luke 12:7 -- But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows:

John 10:27 -- My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me
So... we have a basis for security...

B. Though Troubles May Come

- a) The thing to remember troubling times is that **you are not abandoned**

1. Waters of the deep

- a) We do not all go through the same waters. Some will go through the waters of poverty, impaired health, discrimination, physical or mental handicap, abuse of any sort, etc.

We must be careful not to “feel sorry for ourselves” but always keep in mind that there are “other little boats” being battered by the storms of life. (Mark 4:36)

2. Rivers at flood time

- a) Throughout life we will have rivers to cross. There will be times when our faith is not as strong as it should be; times when sorrow and grief seem greater than we can bear and times when challenges facing us come when strength is depleted. It is then when we must look to Him!

3. Fire that terrorizes

4. WHEN you pass through

- a) No one is immune from trials, tribulations, troubles and distresses in this life. These things affect us all. Jesus said: These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” -- John 16:33.

Job declared: “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.” Job 14:1.

- b) You may try to avoid the waters but such efforts will fail. Man’s escape mechanisms (alcohol, drugs, denial) will come to nothing. Either with God...or alone...you will go through! But Christian remember: “If God’s will brings you to it...His grace will bring you through it!”

So... we have a basis for security...

Though troubles may come... and...

C. Our Foundation Is Sure

a) Why? **because of the ONE who makes it so**

1. God is with you

a) We have the promise of God's presence.

-**His presence alone** should remove our fears.

-Matthew 28:20 Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.

-He'll be with you.

--Through the flood

--Through the fire (recall the story? Three in the fire)

--Even through death

Psalms 23:4 -- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;

2. He is your God

a) In this phrase in that verse God reminds us of Egypt.

Remember what God told Moses when he asked, "Who shall I say sent me?" God told Moses, "You tell Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, that I Am sent you." All through scripture God calls himself I Am.

And that sounds real nice but what exactly does that mean?

b) "I am," is connected with the Hebrew verbs for be, become, happen. So, when God says, "I am," he means, "I am here, I am active, I am what's happening."

3. He is your Savior

II. Conclusion

- A. If you hear nothing else today, hear this.
 - A. Security in Christ is relational
 - B. Problems in life are temporal
 - C. Your foundation in Christ is immovable
- B. When the worst happens we don't just lose our health or a loved one or a job or a home; we lose our identity - who we were. The tragedy is so overwhelming, the grief so all consuming, that it redefines us. It tags us with a new and unwelcome label. You no longer go by your name. Now, you are a divorcee. Or a widower. Or an orphan. Or broke. Or unemployed. Or disabled. Or an adulterer. Or addict. Or drunk. Or thief.

Whether the worst comes falling down on you through no fault of your own, or comes bursting out from within because of your own sinful choices, you lose more than a few possessions or a few precious relationships. The loss is so overwhelming because you lose yourself.

That's when you need to listen with the ears of faith for the voice of God to say, "I am. You may have lost everything, even who you are, but I am. I am here. I am what's real and lasting. I am with you. I am your savior."

The former Eagle Don Henley states our worst fear when he penned the words; "In a New York minute, everything can change." But no matter how overpowering your worst case scenario is, no matter how enormous it seems, God is more powerful, God is more enormous.

William Gumall, the Puritan writer, said, "The reason why the presumptuous sinner fears so little, and the despairing soul so much is for want of knowing God is great."

In the Old Testament, God told his people, "Be still, and know that I am God." That same God, in the person of Jesus, told the winds and waves, "Quiet! Be still." He has that power yet today for the storms you face. No matter how big they are, no matter how often they come.

I want to tell you the rest of the story I started with. Carmelo and Teresa Sarabia lay helpless in the mud and debris that had been their lives, fearing the worst for their child. What they didn't know is that a little way down the hill, Gary Seagraves had been sorting through the rubble, looking for survivors. He picked up what looked like a ball of mud. Then it began to cry. Seagraves handed baby Tiffany to a neighbor. The neighbor placed her in the care of firefighters. As the Sarabias anguished over Tiffany, that which was most precious to them had been placed in the hands of another.

Your worst fears do not diminish God's power. Not one bit. Listen with your faith. You will hear God's words speaking truth into your life once more.

The truth He will speak is this:

- A. You have a basis for security — relationship with Jesus
- B. Though troubles may come — they will, temporarily
- C. Your foundation is sure... in the Lord... through Christ Jesus